

**CURRENT DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION**  
**ACTIVITIES OF INTEREST**  
(not all inclusive)

- Delta Visioning and Commission Strategic Planning Process (work plans)
- Project Review for Consistency with the Delta Protection Act and Land Use and Resource Management Plan for the Primary Zone of the Delta
- Delta Mercury TMDL Collaborative (AB 2901)
- Delta Branding Project (visitor center/signage)
- Resource Conservation and Development Council Bio-Energy Grant
- Abandoned Vessel Removal Program
- Lower Bypass Collaborative/Management Plan
- Working Landscapes Grant Application
- Great California Delta Trail (SB 1556)
- Delta-wide Conservation Easement Concept
- Legislation (AB 2901, AB 797, SB 1556, AB 1244, AB 1561)
- Public Outreach (web site/presentations/panels/displays/coastal clean-up/press)
- 2005 Annual Report

## **DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION**

April 13, 2006

As acknowledged by the Legislature in 1992, through the adoption of the Delta Protection Act (Act) and the creation of the Delta Protection Commission (Commission), the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is a living environment of unique significance composed of irreplaceable agricultural, habitat, and recreational resources.

Regional recognition of this jewel has become more prominent in recent months due, unfortunately, to catastrophic events such as Hurricane Katrina. Attention to flood protection and water conveyance has significantly increased at the local, state and federal levels.

While participating in efforts to address these areas of growing concern brought about by Hurricane Katrina, the Commission's charge of implementing the Land Use and Resource Management Plan for the Primary Zone of the Delta (Management Plan) entails an even broader focus that is reflected in findings, policies and recommendations in the areas of: environment, utilities and infrastructure, land use, agriculture, water, recreation and access, levees, and marine patrol/boater education/safety.

### Commission Transition and Vision

Having listened intently to discussions that took place in 2003 and 2004 regarding the role of the Commission, its members have taken steps to begin an intensely facilitated visioning process to recap accomplishments and explore direction for the future. Initiated in November, it is anticipated this process will be completed in May of 2006, and conclude with the development of a multi-year business plan (including supplemental funding opportunities), an implementation guide, a status review of the Management Plan, data collection for Delta visioning, and the establishment of a repository for Delta-related documents. This visioning process coincides with a change in leadership of the Commission that has included a new Chair, Vice-Chair, and Executive Director. Additionally, seven of the existing nineteen seats on the Commission have been filled with new members.

As part of the "new era" mantra of the Commission, the need has been identified to refocus staffing resources to become increasingly proactive in the areas of legislation, grants, public affairs, and development of an action plan for the Management Plan. Through these avenues, the effectiveness of collaboratively representing those that live, work, and play in the Delta is anticipated to become more regionally prominent. A Strategic Support Team comprised of in-kind contributions of expertise and staffing resources of several members of the Commission has been formed to implement this strategy of refocus.

The Commission has also reviewed administrative practices, and steps have been taken to significantly streamline procedures where feasible. This has provided for budgetary savings while significantly increasing the effectiveness of staffing resources and public service.

### Effectiveness in Preserving Agriculture, Habitat, and Recreation

Based on informational sources that include the Great Valley Center, California Department of Conservation, Department of Water Resources, Little Hoover Commission, and Sacramento Area Council of Government's Blue Print process, the population of the central valley is expected to double by 2040. Correspondingly, development trends in the Primary and Secondary Zones of the Delta are most obviously apparent by the increasing number of proposed residential housing developments, and related commercial and infrastructure facilities.

Local and regional data sources clearly signify a trend of mounting pressures for encroachment of development on the Delta. Indicators demonstrate that this trend will undoubtedly continue at an increasing rate as will the corresponding demand for public use of Delta resources.

The fact that development proposals for the Primary Zone have been minimal in contrast to a significant increase in proposals for the Secondary Zone, clearly demonstrates that the provisions of the Act and the presence of the Commission have been effective in preserving and enhancing agricultural, habitat, and recreational resources. That there has only been one appeal to the Commission since its inception demonstrates the benefits of a proactive approach to collaborative planning that takes conservation into account, along with economic and urban demands.

Nonetheless, the potential for continually increasing development activities in the Secondary Zone to impact the Primary Zone is of concern to the Commission. It is therefore, of utmost priority for the Commission to continue to work in collaboration with project proponents and local entities to preserve and enhance the unique and irreplaceable resources of the Delta through adaptive management and effective implementation of the Management Plan. Continued Commission involvement in the development of local general plan amendments and Delta visioning processes will be instrumental in meeting this intent.

The addition of staffing support through the newly-created Strategic Support Team will allow the Commission to review the findings, policies and recommendations of the Management Plan. This review will provide documentation of accomplishments to date, identification of tasks that remain to be accomplished, and development of a prioritized action plan to strategically address the increasing demands of urban encroachment on Delta resources.

### Implementation of Findings, Policies, and Recommendations

The significant accomplishments of the Commission in implementing the findings, policies, and recommendations of the Management Plan in 2005, are provided in the areas of environment, utilities/infrastructure and levees, land use and agriculture, water, and recreation/access and marine patrol/boater education/safety programs.

Consistent with the transition of the Commission in 2005, efforts to refocus significant resources toward local and regional collaboration have been initiated. This approach is apparent throughout the listing of highlighted accomplishments. Examples worth noting include: formation of a Delta Mercury Collaborative to collectively provide input into the

development of a Total Maximum Daily Load program for the Delta; formation of a collaborative approach to address the increasing issue of abandoned vessels; administration of grant funds for the development of a bio-fuels program by the Resource Conservation and Development Council; co-sponsoring a collaborative approach to develop a management plan for the Lower Yolo Bypass; submittal of an application for Proposition 50 grant funds for working landscapes demonstration projects; facilitator support for development of a Delta branding concept including signage and a visitor center; facilitation of a forum for the discussion of a Delta Loop Trail; and development of opportunities for an active easement and mitigation program.

The success of the Commission to effectively facilitate such forums of collaboration is significantly attributed to the diversity of its members and the rapport and trust it has been able to develop with local and regional stakeholders.

In summary, 2005 has brought an era of transition to the Commission and a reconfirmed commitment of its members to carry out the provisions of the Act and the dedicated implementation of the Management Plan for the preservation and enhancement of agricultural, habitat, and recreational resources of the Delta.

## **ABOUT THE ACT, COMMISSION AND LAND USE AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE PRIMARY ZONE OF THE DELTA**

The Delta Protection Act (Act) was adopted by the Legislature in 1992 and subsequently amended in 1996, 1998, 1999, and 2000. The Act, codified in the Public Resources Code beginning with Sections 29700, is also known as the Johnston-Baker-Andal-Boatwright Delta Protection Act of 1992.

The Act was created pursuant to findings and declarations of the Legislature that the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is a natural resource of statewide, national, and international significance, containing irreplaceable resources. Furthermore, the Legislature found and declared that it is the policy of the State to recognize, preserve, and protect those resources of the Delta for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations.

The Delta Protection Commission (Commission) was created under the Act. The diverse composition of the Commission provides for stakeholder representation in the areas of agriculture, habitat, and recreation. The nineteen members of the Commission include: landowners from North, South, West, and Central Delta Reclamation Districts; a member of the County Board of Supervisors from each of the five Delta counties (Sacramento, San Joaquin, Contra Costa, Yolo and Solano); a representative from the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), and the San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG); and high-level leaders from the California Department of Fish and Game, California Department of Parks and Recreation, California Department of Boating and Waterways, California Department of Water Resources, California Department of Food and Agriculture, and the California State Lands Commission. Ex-officio members of the Commission are Senator Mike Machado and Assemblywoman Lois Wolk.

As called for in the Act, a Land Use and Resource Management Plan for the Primary Zone (Management Plan) was prepared and adopted by the Commission in 1995 and revised in 2002. The Management Plan sets out findings, policies, and recommendations resulting from background studies in the areas of environment, utilities and infrastructure, land use, agriculture, water, recreation and access, levees, and marine patrol/boater education/safety programs. In conformance with the provisions of the Act, local government general plans are to provide for consistency with the provisions of the Management Plan. The Commission serves as an Appeal body in the event an action of a local entity on a project located within the Primary Zone is challenged as being inconsistent with the Act or the Management Plan.

Provisions of the Act require that on January 1 of each year, the Commission submit to the Governor and the Legislature a report describing the progress that has been made in achieving the objectives of the Act and the relevant sections of the Public Resources Code.

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Roster – Delta Protection Commission - Page Two

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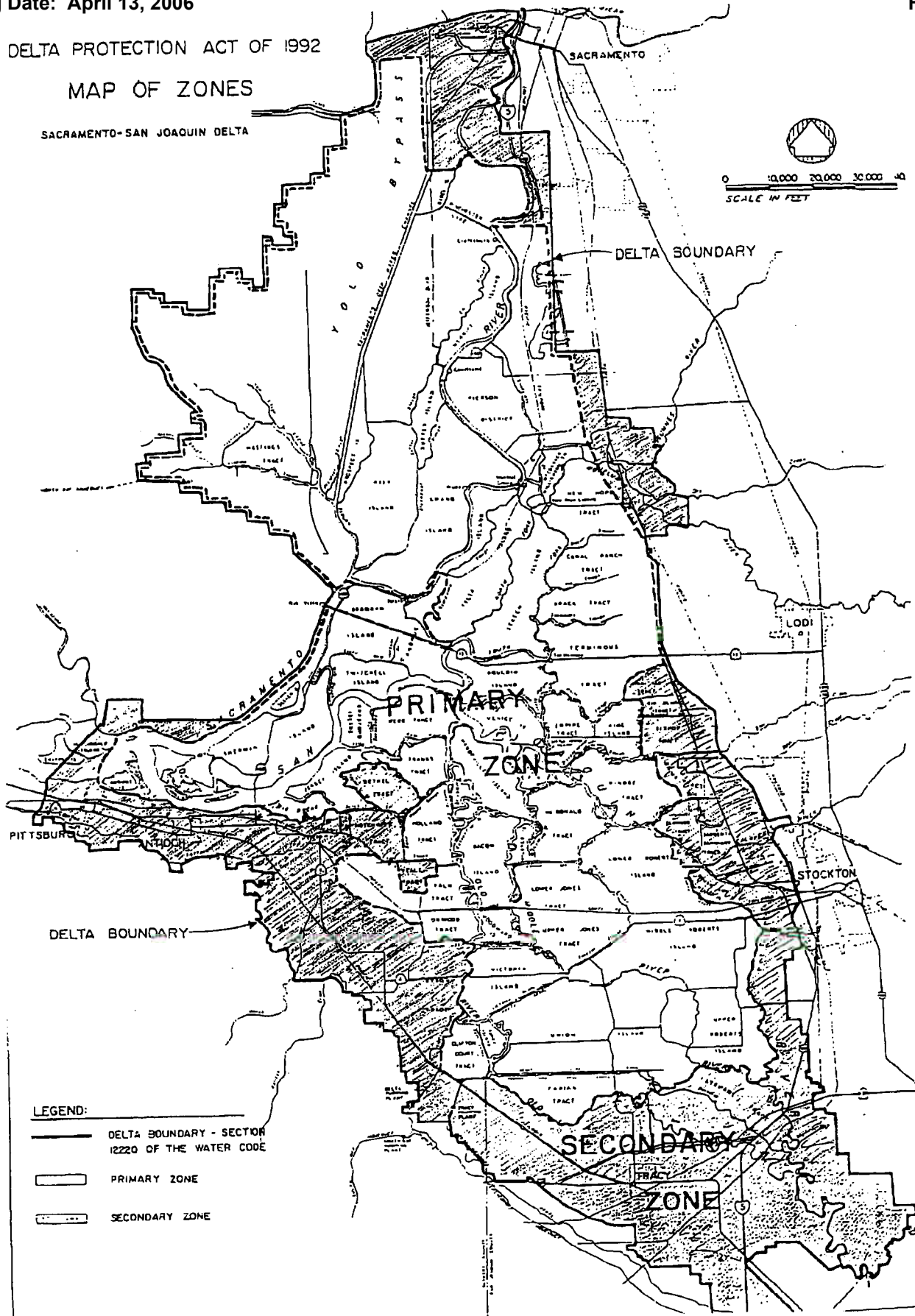
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## MAP OF ZONES

A north arrow pointing upwards and a graphic scale bar in feet. The scale bar is marked from 0 to 40,000 feet, with major ticks every 10,000 feet and minor ticks every 2,000 feet. The text "SCALE IN FEET" is written below the scale bar.





LAND USE AND  
RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT  
PLAN FOR THE  
PRIMARY ZONE  
OF THE DELTA



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